Loss due to non-clearance from department of forest

†2521. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-clearnace of approval under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, there has been a shortfall in the production of coal of around 27,93,324 tonnes by the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited from the last April to February this year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that State Government, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and Central Government suffered a loss of Rupees, 23,74,35,000/- 118,25,10,000/- and 25,89,99,000/- respectively; and

(c) who is responsible for this loss and concrete measures taken by Government for stopping the recurrence of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to delay/non-clearance of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 there has been a shortfall in production of coal to the tune of 23,12,910 Tonnes from April, 2004 to February, 2005 in Mahandi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

(b) Due to above shortfall in production of coal, accrual of Rs. 21.40 crores in form of Royalty and taxes to the State Government, Rs. 2.31 crores of excise duty and taxes to the Central Government and Rs. 55.29 crores of revenue to MCL did not materialise.

(c) Regular interaction with State Government Forest officials and Ministry of Environmental and Forests is being done for stopping the recurrence of the similar losses.

Policy to allot coal for captive use

2522. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating a change in the present policy of providing coal for captive use through coal linkage;

(b) if so, whether the new policy would also be applicable to the companies which already have availed coal linkage;

†Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether it, would make coal costlier for small companies; and

(d) if so, how would small companies compete market system with the big companies which have received coal block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply given in part (a) above.

Land sliding due to mining

†2523. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to mining work carried out in the coal areas of Jharkhand, the threat of land sliding has arisen therein;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any scientific study to determine the area affected by this mining work and the details thereof;

(c) the total number of incidents of land sliding during the last four years and the number of people lost their lives in these accidents; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent these accidents and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Land sliding is defined as a mass of earth / rock that slides down a mountain or a cliff. In coal mines no such phenomena takes place. As such there is no threat of land sliding due to mining carried out in the areas of coal mines in Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

Fire in coal mines

†2524. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coal Field Limited have caught fire for decades;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.